

Megatone's new home

Recording studio will open at former Christmas shop

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

It began with a song, and a kiss in a parking lot, and now Paul Schluter and Elizabeth Mary's story continues in a former Christmas shop in downtown Mount Horeb.

Megatone Recording Studios is moving to Mount Horeb this spring. The Madison-based recording studio will be relocating to 220 East Main Street, in the former Olson's Christmas Shop, and will start a new chapter in a story that stretches over decades and through a variety of stories and sounds.

The dynamic duo, who joined forces and fell in love while recording Mary's first

album together, are standing in the future home of their business. Their three-year-old son, Elliott, is exploring the space, while they side-step raw lumber and a few shelves and explain every detail of the professional recording studio they will soon create in a space that, until recently, was filled with holiday ornaments.

Schluter is a producer, musician and band leader. Mary is a songwriter, performer and even a children's book author. She also has a clothing line.

The son of a prolific musician, Schluter's career started at the age of 16, when he first recorded with legendary producer Butch

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Musician and producer Paul Schluter and singer/songwriter Elizabeth Mary are bringing Megatone Recording Studios to downtown Mount Horeb this spring. Photo by Matt Geiger.

Village board looks at parking study

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

The Village Board considered a presentation from MSA Professional Services on a recent parking study done on the downtown area.

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Keeping the homefires burning

Controlled blaze makes way for new life

Above, Dane County Parks employee Chris Cole, of Albany, runs a line of flames along the north border of the burn unit using a drip torch during a prescribed burn of Stewart Lake County Park's prairie on March 6. Read more about the importance of these annual fires on page 12. Photo by Ron Lutz II.

Beloved birdhouse maker to retire one last time

Ken Beyer is closing business

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Ken Beyer will miss the aroma of freshly-hewn wood. He will miss chatting with customers, hearing their various stories of the birds who visit their yards.

"The slivers and cuts, I won't miss," he adds with a grin.

After a successful, decade-long second career as a prolific birdhouse maker, this 80-year-old former truck driver is hanging up his saws, hammers and paint brushes as he closes Ken's Birdhouses & Feeders and gets ready to downsize several aspects of his life.

"I'm 80 years old, I've been doing this for 10 years, and I lost my wife to cancer and have no need of

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PERSPECTIVE

Pickleball courts to be dedicated

To the editor,

Last year, the village of Mount Horeb and the MHASD completed a total transformation of the four tennis courts on Lincoln Street into six dedicated pickleball courts and two tennis courts. The Mount Horeb Pickleball Group (MOHOP) raised funds to contribute to this project as well. As a member of MOHOP, I want to thank the village for their financial contribution to this project and the MHASD for allow-

ing this to happen at Viking Park. Thanks also to our many individual donors to the MOHOP fundraising efforts.

With the early spring-like weather, the courts are being used frequently by tennis and pickleball players of all ages. It is not uncommon to see 10-20 people at a time enjoying this new facility.

MOHOP is continuing to work with the village and school district to improve the facility and make its' use more enjoyable. Some planned improvements include court numbers, wind screens, a windsock, a steel storage box, a concrete patio and shade structure, benches

and picnic tables.

As a member of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce, MOHOP is helping coordinate a Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening event to be held on Saturday, May 4 beginning at 10:00 am. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we will recognize our donors. Many activities are being planned to help celebrate this new addition to our community. Mark your calendars and follow MOHOP on Facebook to keep up with the latest developments.

Chris Pfahler
MOHOP member

Nesheim proud of Vikings

To the editor,

The 2023-2024 boys basketball season ended in dramatic fashion with a heartbreaking two-point loss to Stoughton in the sectional semi-final game. As a coach, you want nothing more than your team to take it all the way and your heart breaks for those seniors who played their last game. I am

SO proud to be their coach.

While we are sad about the final score, we could not have been happier with the thousand plus people who showed up for that game-running out to a sea of red will never be forgotten.

In addition, the community spirit throughout the whole season was remarkable. Thank you to the fans for attending our games, standing in lines for a sell-out gym, and filling the bleachers to cheer us on.

Thank you to the parents of the players for raising re-

markable young men that I am so grateful to know and coach. We are truly a special family.

We will see you next year! Go Vikings!

Sincerely,

Todd Nesheim
Boys Basketball Coach
Mount Horeb

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Please submit all letters to the editor via email. You can email your letters to mgeiger@fingerpub.com

All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. We won't publish your address and number, but we need to be able to verify who you are. Anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered.

We prefer letters that are fewer than 600 words and take as their starting point an issue that is important to our community and our readers. To write a guest column of more than 600 words, contact the editor first.

Letters are edited for clarity, fact checked and sometimes trimmed to fit the space available in the newspaper. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. The editor won't try to make you seem more (or less) intelligent than you really are, but may clean up some grammatical issues according to our style guide. We want your opinions, even when we don't agree with them. But this isn't the Internet, so you can't just say anything you want. Try to base your letters on reason and fact. We will not publish claims that are demonstrably false.

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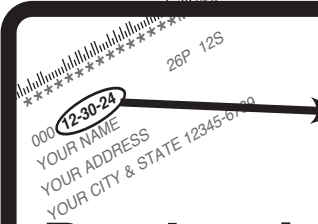
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School district thanks Hise for service

Mount Horeb Area School District Expresses Gratitude to Rod Hise for “Exceptional Service” as a member of the Mount Horeb Area School District’s Board of Education

Mount Horeb Area School District would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Rod Hise “for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service as a member of the Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education, including his roles as both Vice President and President,” said a district statement.

During his six-year tenure, which began in 2018 and concluded in 2024, Hise “demonstrated unwavering commitment and exceptional leadership in advancing the educational

goals and aspirations of our District. His tireless efforts greatly contributed to the success and growth of our educational community.”

Under Hise’s guidance, the Mount Horeb Area School District “achieved significant milestones, including a successful capital referendum and leading our community through the pandemic. His strategic vision, collaborative approach, and deep understanding of the needs of our students, staff, and community have been instrumental in shaping the District’s educational policies and programs.”

Throughout his term, Hise “consistently advocated for excellence in education, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all learners. His dedication to ensuring equitable oppor-

tunities for every student has been truly commendable,” said the district in a press release.”

“Rod Hise’s leadership and commitment to our District have been invaluable,” said Dr. Steve Salerno, superintendent of the Mount Horeb Area School District. “His passion for education and dedication to the success of our students have left an indelible mark on our community. We are immensely grateful for his service and the positive impact he has made.”

Hise’s departure from the board does not require a formal application to fill this vacancy as elections will be held on April 2, 2024.

Right, Rod Hise (holding plaque) was thanked by fellow board members as he prepared to depart.



Aysen Allen earns Student Spotlight

The school district recently celebrated Aysen Allen, a second-grade student, as the March student spotlight. A district statement said Aysen is “a wonderful example of what it means to be a Viking. He is continuously respectful, responsible and ready throughout the school day. Aysen demonstrates being respectful as he is always ready for instructions. He also works hard to be a first-time listener, following adult directions.”

“Another admirable thing about Aysen is that he makes sure no one is ever alone,” said the district. “If a classmate needs a partner, he always invites them to join him or the group he is with. He kindly reminds people to follow the rules when need be. Aysen shows how he is responsible so many times throughout the day. He is always among the first to volunteer to help clean up at the end of the day (even when it’s a mess he didn’t make!) and is careful with his supplies, as well as those of the classroom. Aysen demonstrates being ready as he is an extremely hard and focused worker. He never rushes, but takes his time and does his very best, even if he is among the last to finish. Aysen is such a role model to all of his peers, and we are so lucky to learn with him.”

Photo (from left to right): second-grade teacher Hannah Severson, superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno, Board President Jessica Arrigoni, guest of honor Aysen Allen, Nicholas Allen, Principal Rachael Johnson, proud siblings Avery and Austyn, Cayla Allen, as well as Jodi Chandler, Chuck Chandler, Brian Allen and Lisa Allen.

Cole Theobald honored by Madison Kiwanis



Cole Theobald (above right), member of the FFA Chapter of Mount Horeb High School, was recently presented the Louis M. Sasman Award by Gerald Schwoch, President-Elect of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison. They are joined by Abe Aberle, Chair of the Kiwanis Club’s Agricultural, Conservation and Environment Committee.

The Sasman Award is given annually to an outstanding student from each of the FFA Chapters at Dane County High Schools. Sasman was the State Supervisor for Vocational Education for 36 years and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison for over 40 years.

Winter parking regulations to end; Yard brush pick-up to start again

Winter parking regulations, including alternate side parking will end on March 31.

The Public Services Department will begin picking up brush and yard waste earlier than normal due to the nice weather and lack of snow. We will begin the week of March 18 and will continue every other week through the end of November. More information can be found on the Village website. Please follow these guidelines for brush and yard waste:

Have your brush and yard waste at the curb by 7:00am **MONDAY** morning, the week of pickup;

Do not place brush and yard waste in the street and please do not stack it next to trees, poles, fire hydrants, etc.;

The Village **DOES NOT** pick up grass clippings. Residents can take grass to the Village compost site;

The Village compost site is open now until November 30.

The Bulk Item Trash Event is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 from 8:00am to noon at the Village facilities, 301 Blue Mounds Street. This event is for Village residents only and is for large trash items that do not fit in the residential garbage carts. This includes household furniture, mattresses, carpeting, etc. Items not allowed include auto parts, tires, hazardous items, liquid waste, pesticides, appliances, electronics, yard

waste or large amounts of construction materials. No businesses, contractors or commercial vehicles will be allowed and proof of residency is required. The cash only fees are as follows: Car or SUV: \$10; Pickup truck/van: \$20; Single-axle trailer: \$20; Double-axle trailer: \$40.

The electronics recycling event will also take place from 8:00am to noon, April 27. The event will be held at the Mount Horeb Intermediate Center bus parking lot along E. Garfield Street. The electronics recycling event is open to all residents of Mount Horeb and surrounding townships. Please see the Village web site for more specific information on the recycling event.

Over the past two years, the Mount Horeb area saw an outbreak of Spongey Moth (formerly known as Gypsy Moth). There were a few areas in the Village where there was heavy tree defoliation on oak trees. Property owners should be on the lookout for Spongey Moth egg masses on trees, buildings, outdoor furniture, etc. The moths like to lay their eggs on the underside of these structures or on tree trunks. These egg masses can be sprayed with a horticultural oil labeled for Spongey Moths or scraped off surfaces and soaked in soapy water for two days before discarding in the trash. Spraying or scraping can be done until mid-April. You can visit the DNR or UW-Extension web sites for more information on identification and treatment options.

Wisconsin Policy Forum reveals local governments levied \$3.48 billion in taxes

Preliminary data from the Wisconsin Policy Forum shows Wisconsin’s more than 1,800 cities, villages, and towns levied \$3.48 billion in property taxes on December 2023 bills. The resulting 3.7 percent increase from the \$3.35 billion levied in December 2022 is less than the 4.5 percent increase the year prior, but larger than any other year since 2009. At the same time, historic legislation passed last summer increased the main source

of state aid to municipalities, known as shared revenue, by 30.5 percent – from \$674.2 million last year to \$879.5 million this year. The combined collective impact for municipalities is an 8.2 percent increase in revenues from their two largest sources – property taxes and shared revenue. This average statewide increase is the most in at least three decades and likely much longer. However, the actual increases for individual cities, villages, and towns

differ widely, the Forum pointed out. While some smaller communities have seen a substantial percentage increase in their revenues, in others the effect has been much more modest.

In December, the Village of Mount Horeb levied \$7,237,034 in local property taxes.

In 2011, a change in state law limited increases in municipal property tax levies for operations to the percentage increase in net new
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Wisconsin is Having a Moment

All of the Good News Around Wisconsin and the More to Come

By Missy Hughes
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

There's been a lot of good news about Wisconsin lately, and it's only just the start.

First, recent Census figures show our state's population grew by about 20,000 in 2023, the biggest one-year increase in this decade.

Among Midwest states, only Indiana and Minnesota were ahead of us for population growth. Iowa and Michigan both grew, but more slowly, while Illinois' population declined.

More importantly, our rural communities - which make up the heart and soul of our state - are also holding their own.

A recent report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum found that between 2010 and 2020, Wisconsin's rural population growth was second to North Dakota among 12 Midwest states.

During that same period, Wisconsin was one of only four states in the region whose rural population held steady or increased. This is important because, other research has shown, Wisconsin tends to be a state of "stayers," so once you're here, you're likely here for good.

These statistics suggest that while we still must draw new workers to our state and keep the ones we have, we're working from a solid base.

Those attraction and retention efforts are about to get a big boost as the global spotlight turns to Wisconsin. Over the next year or so the world will be seeing our state in new and different ways - from food to politics to sports.

Beginning later this month, viewers of the TV phenomenon known as Top Chef will be spending the season in Wisconsin - offering an up-close look at the



Missy Hughes, Secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

amazing culinary diversity and incredible quality of life we enjoy here.

This summer, Milwaukee will become the center of the political world as thousands of delegates will attend the Republican National Convention, covered by the world's media. In addition to being a major boost for the entire region's hospitality industry, the event provides a chance to see the vibrance and resilience of

our state's biggest city.

And then next spring, the eyes of sports fans will be on Green Bay for three days as it hosts the NFL draft - football's biggest off-season event, and another chance for visitors and the media to learn more about Wisconsin.

All this attention comes on top of a spate of remarkable economic news, including Microsoft's decision to build a huge data center in southeast Wisconsin, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's designation of our biohealth industry as a Regional Technology Hub, and the upcoming launch of the \$100 million Wisconsin Investment Fund, the largest public-private investment start-ups in state history.

WEDC is building on this momentum with the launch of Look Forward Wisconsin, which combines online and TV advertising with person-to-person follow-up to attract potential new res-

idents.

Our new website, LookForwardWisconsin.com, provides detailed information about all the ways people can live, work, and play in the Badger State - including the incredible opportunities available to veterans. The site also highlights Wisconsin's unique regions, whether it's the Northwoods or the Driftless, big cities or small towns.

What distinguishes this from previous initiatives is the emphasis on getting results. Folks who are interested in moving to the state fill out an online form, and they're connected with local ambassadors who can help with everything from finding a job to choosing the right neighborhood. We'll get a better sense of what newcomers are looking for and how to maximize Wisconsin's appeal to them.

Our state is clearly having a moment. If we seize it, we'll be celebrating many

more.

Missy Hughes is the Secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the state's leading economic development organization.

ABOUT THE WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit wedc.org or follow WEDC on Twitter @WEDCNews to learn more.

Embracing the Outdoors

Birdwatching, an Activity for Everyone

By Katie Pederson
Finger Publishing

Birdwatching is one of those fun little activities that anyone, no matter what age or ability, can participate in. You can birdwatch in your backyard, at a local park, while biking on a trail, or by visiting any of Wisconsin's popular refuges like Horicon Marsh or the International Crane Foundation.

The observation of birds is considered both a recreational activity as well as a form of citizen science. It can be as simple as relaxing in your yard with a tasty



Bald Eagles have made a comeback in Wisconsin, and have been confirmed as nesting in all 72 counties. Sue Moen Photo



The Red-Headed Woodpecker stashes food in holes that it makes in trees (and power poles!)

Katie Pederson Photo

If you want to enhance your experience and draw

birds to your yard there's no need to spend a lot of money to do so. Most Wisconsin birds, both permanent residents and seasonal visitors, will eat sunflower seeds, suet and peanuts. The most popular sunflower seed type to feed is black oil sunflower seed, but you can also find chips (without the shells), hearts, and striped. Sunflower

continued on next page

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This Limpkin visited Stewart Lake County Park in Mount Horeb in September 2023. The sighting of the bird, which is not native to our area, drew hundreds of people to the park. *Photo courtesy of Dexter Patterson*



The Northern Cardinal is a bright visior to backyards. *Sue Moen Photo*



This female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird had some competition at the feeder. *Katie Pederson Photo*



These three sparrows enjoy a backyard meal, during the winter months. *Sue Moen Photo*



The Black-Capped Chickadee is a friendly bird, and can be recognized by its “fee-bee” call. *Katie Pederson Photo*



The Sandhill Crane’s bugling call can be heard for miles. These large birds nest and breed in Wisconsin and other northern states, then migrate to warmer climates for the winter months. *Katie Pederson photo*

continued from previous page
seeds are easy to find in feed, hardware and grocery stores. And you don’t even need a feeder, just spread it on the ground or set a bowl

out, but if you want one there are many types on the market. Tube feeders, tray feeders or hopper feeders, most stores will have several options available. Suet

is readily available to buy, or make your own (see recipe at end of article). They make special suet feeders, or you can just set it out, the birds will find it. Birds also enjoy treats like peanuts, either in the shell or out, and mealworms. Make sure the peanuts are unsalted and unroasted. Attracting

hummingbirds is simple as well. You can mix the nectar up in your kitchen (three parts water to one part white granulated sugar, boil gently while stirring until sugar is dissolved), fill the feeder when it’s cool and hang it up for the tiniest of birds.

So now you’re feeding your feathered friends, but who are they? There’s a plethora of bird identifica-

tion books, birding groups on Facebook who are more than happy to help you, and even apps for identification help that can ID a bird from a photo or their call. You will quickly start to be able to tell a Nuthatch from a Chickadee, and realize that Sparrows are in abundance. Make sure to have water out for them as well, for bathing and drinking.

As far as watching the birds, you need nothing more than the eyes that are already in your head. Of course you can invest in binoculars. You could take a camera along to record your bird findings, too. You can buy a checklist book or make your own checklist.

But what if you want to see rare birds in the wild? The Cornell Lab of Ornithology developed a website called eBird (<https://ebird.org>) along with an app of the same name where you can track bird sightings by species or region. Five American Flamingos, thought to have strayed off course due to Hurricane Idalia in September 2023, were spotted in Port Washington on

the shores of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin, the first time that the species was recorded in the state. A rare sighting closer to home is of the Limpkin at Mount Horeb’s Stewart Lake County Park in September of 2023, and drew hundreds of people to the area.

There are many recipes for suet, this is one that I like.

- “Marval Meal”
- 1 Cup peanut butter (smooth or chunky)
 - 2 Cups quick cook oats
 - 2 Cups yellow corn meal
 - 1 Cup shortening or lard
 - 1 Cup white flour

Soften the shortening or lard and peanut butter in the microwave and thoroughly mix together. Add the rest of the ingredients and pour into a loaf pan lined with parchment. Cool in the refrigerator overnight or until set. Slice and serve.

I’ve added nuts and mealworms to this and the birds go crazy for it. They also seem to prefer the lard as the fat.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FFA banquet is March 21

The Mt. Horeb FFA will be recognizing student accomplishments at the 83rd Annual FFA Banquet to be held Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. in the High School Gym. Family members, neighbors, alumni and all friends of the FFA are invited to attend. A meal consisting of ham, corn, potatoes, cheese, and rolls will be served, followed by an awards program and short presentations highlighting FFA activities. The evening will conclude with door prizes. The Mt. Horeb FFA Banquet is free and no reservations are needed.

You can serve community

Each Spring, the Village Board reappoints committee and commission members. If you're interested in serving your community, please complete and return the Citizen Committee Member Interest Form for consideration. Appointed committee members generally serve for a term

of one to three years. If you have questions, please feel free to submit email inquiries to Village President, Ryan Czyzewski. Completed forms should be submitted via email to citizennominations@mounthorebwi.info, or dropped off at the Village Office, 138 E. Main Street. Please submit forms by March 15.

Explore plant pathology

On Tuesday, April 2 the Mound Vue Garden Club meeting program will feature speaker Dr. Brian Hudelson, a professor with UW Plant Pathology and Director of the UW Plant Diseases Diagnostic Clinic. His presentation, "Confessions of a Black Thumb" will provide lessons on what to do to make your plants thrive and what not to do unless you hope to harm or kill your plants. It should be a humorous and lively presentation.

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday, 6:45 p.m., at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room.

The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the second exit heading west off 18/151). Refreshments at 6:45 p.m., presentation starts at 7, and the club business meeting begins at 8.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend the program free of charge. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

Students graduate from the UW

A total of 1,966 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 17, 2023, including students from your area.

Just more than 1,300 of them took part in the ceremony at the Kohl Center. The ceremony was livestreamed so that friends and family from around the world could watch. UW issued 1,459 bachelor's degrees, 387 master's degrees, and 120 doctoral degrees.

The keynote speaker was Michael Finley, a Badger basketball legend, NBA All-Star and assistant general manager and vice president of basketball operations for the Dallas Mavericks.

"The fast track isn't always the best track," Finley told the graduates. "You can miss something valuable that way. I learned about patience and humility - that growth doesn't come when everyone is watching but by how hard you work when nobody is."

In her remarks, Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin said that while every graduating class is special, the Class of 2023 had the distinction of earning degrees on UW-Madison's 175th anniversary.

"Some will tell you that the problems facing our world and our planet are impossible to solve," Mnookin said. "So my message to you today is simple: Don't believe it. Do not be deterred by what others have labeled impossible."

Local graduates were: (Blue Mounds) Claire Harned, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts, Geography; Keshena Koran, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science-Chemical Engineering, Chemical Engineering; (Mount Horeb) Sierra Berg, School of Education, Bachelor of Science-Health Promotion and Health Equity, Health Promotion and Health Equity; Luke Harvey, School of Education, Bachelor of Science-Education, Elementary Education; Arian Hashani, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts, Communication Arts;

Jeremy Lincicum, School of Business, Master of Business Administration, Business: General Management; Duncan Mcfarlane, College of Letters and Science, Master of Science-Cartography and Geographic Information; Systems, Cartography and Geographic Information Systems; Eric Schloesser, School of Education, Master of Science-Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum and Instruction.

Barneveld 4k

In preparation for the 2024-2025 school year, the Barneveld School District will hold a four-year-old kindergarten screening on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024.

If your child will be four years of age on or before September 1, 2024, please contact Laura Rhoades-Jenson at the district office (608) 924-4711 to be added to the list to receive notifications and information regarding 4K enrollment. Students who will be eligible to attend five-year-old kindergarten in the fall of 2024 who did not attend four-year-old kindergarten this year may also sign up for the screening.

All students who reside within the district are eligible for this program. If you reside outside the district and are interested in open enrollment, please see the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website for more details.

The 4K classroom is located in the lower level of the Barneveld Public Library and meets four days a week for a half-day session in the morning or afternoon. Transportation is provided within the district.

If your child is three and will not be four before September 1, 2023, and you have concerns or questions about their development or speech, please contact Pupil Services Director, Katie Kavanaugh (kkavanaugh@barneveld.k12.wi.us or (608) 924-4711 x1226) to set up an appointment.

Girls on the run

This spring Girls on the Run of South Central Wisconsin is poised to serve a record-breaking number of third- through eighth-grade participants at over 80 sites throughout their territory in Beaver Dam, Beloit, Cambria-Friesland, Cambridge, Deforest, Edgerton, Fall River, Fennimore, Janesville, Lake Mills, Lomira, Madison, McFarland, Middleton, Milton, Mineral Point, Monona, Monroe, Mount Horeb, Oregon, Richland Center, Sauk Prairie, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, and Waunakee.

Program registration for the Spring 2024 season is open at participating schools. To check for schools and sites with availability, visit www.girlsontherunscwi.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Closet open 9:00 to 10:30am (Seniors Preferred) ; All shoppers - 3:00-6:00pm. 102 E. Lincoln Street

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food and Clothes Closet open 10:00-11:30am, 102 E. Lincoln Street

Celebrating Wisconsin's Centennial through stamps now showing in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery at the Driftless Historium through Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Seasonal Card Making, 9:00am-11:30am, Mt Horeb Senior Center

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Tai Chi, 1:00pm. Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Ageless Grace, 2:00pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Foot Clinic, 8:30am-3:30pm, Call 608-437-6902 for appt. Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Fink's Cafe, senior meals, 11:00am-1:00pm

Eucre - Mt. Horeb Senior Center, 12:30pm

Little Free Pantries are located at: New Hope Evangelical Free Church, 639 S. 8th St., Mt. Horeb; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 310 W. Main St. Mt. Horeb and Zwingli UCC, Hwy 92, Mt. Vernon. Nonperishable food and other necessities available 24 hours a day. "Take what you need, share what you can."

Information for the Community Calendar must be emailed by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

Information should be emailed to mhclasses@fingerpub.com.

We reserve the right to edit for length.

Recreation Notes

Our **Summer Registration** opens Monday! Online registration will begin on March 18th at 7:15 AM and in-person registration will begin on March 19th. Summer registration includes swim lessons, pool passes, t-ball, soccer, flag football, art camps, kids camps, tree climbing, and so much more!

Now Hiring – If you are looking for a fun summer job, look no further than the Recreation Department! We are currently seeking individuals for the following positions:

Summer Office Assistant (min age 17)

Pool Staff Attendant (min age 14)

Kids Camp Coordinator (min age 17)

Kids Camp Assistant (min age 14)

NEW this summer – **Introduction to Fly Fishing!** This will be a hands-on approach to casting, while learning the different casting techniques. Participants ages 10 and up will learn the different kind of flies to use and when to use them along with how to tie a clinch knot. Instructor Christopher Lenz is excited to show you all the tips and tricks to be a successful fly fisher. Join Christopher on Saturday, May 4th and May 11th. Session 1 is from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and Session 2 is from 1:00-3:00 PM. Equipment is provided for class use, but participants can bring their own fly fishing pole if they have one. Participants should wear closed toe shoes with good traction and bring a water bottle. Resident fee is \$60 and non-resident fee is \$70. Registration deadline is 4/29.

Calling all High School Players and Alumni looking to get some volleyball in this summer! **4's Grass Volleyball League** is a competitive 4 vs 4 league played on grass in a fun atmosphere. Two matches will be played by each team per night. No coaches or coach instruction will be given. Rules will be given out after registration. Alumni are welcome to join. One team captain will sign up as a team of 4 (or 5 with a sub). There is a High School Advanced League for a more competitive, varsity level volleyball players and alumni; and there is a High School Intermediate League which is more JV1 and JV2 players. League games will be played on Thursdays with games starting at 6:00 PM at the High School Soccer Practice Field. Fee is \$80 resident team fee or \$90

non-resident team fee. Maximum 16 teams allowed to register. Registration deadline is June 3.

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for programs and activities.

Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrd>)

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street

Place completed form and payment in 24-hour drop box

Email completed form and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Coding for Middle Schoolers (3/27)

Little Folk Art Studio (4/1)

Track and Field Decathlon (4/2)

COMMUNITY

Local DECA members excel at state



Twenty-nine Mount Horeb DECA Members attended the 2024 State Career Development Conference.



Ayden Green and Kait Green, 6th Place, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making.



Dylan McKillips, 5th Place, Restaurant and Food Service Marketing.



Dani Kleeman, 5th Place, Principles of Finance.

Twenty-nine students in grades nine through 12 represent Mount Horeb High School at the 2024 Wisconsin DECA State Career Development Conference, held in Lake Geneva February 27 - March 1.

Students demonstrated their business and marketing knowledge by competing in case-study role plays judged by industry experts, and by taking content tests. Some students also presented written projects they collaborated with local businesses, and others participated in presentations and interviews about their participation in DECA and its impact on future career and college decision making. Members had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on topics such as entrepreneurship and college preparedness and networked with the more than 1500 other high school students in attendance from around the state.

Mount Horeb students did exceptionally well competitively, leaving with more than 70 awards in all. Sixteen Mount Horeb events qualified for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) to be held in Anaheim, CA in April. Mount Horeb also received three Gold Student recognitions, 15 finalist awards, two Virtual Business Challenge certificates and over 30 individual event awards. Four students have been invited to attend DECA's Emerging Leaders Series Academies.

Top qualifiers included Manon Gilles and Laurel Helland, State Champions in Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making and fourth place in Integrated Marketing Campaign; Laurel Aquino, State Champion in Food Marketing; Sophie Nelson, second place, Quick Service Restaurant Management, and Jasper Rothenberg and Eileen Herrera

Carballo, 4th Place, Financial Services Team Decision Making. The Mount Horeb DECA Chapter was recognized as a Wisconsin DECA Diamond Level Chapter, and received accolades for community service contributions and membership development.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Students who qualified will now have the opportunity to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, CA. The International Career Development Conference is the culmination of the DECA year. More than 22,000 high school students, teacher-advisors, business professionals and alumni gather for several days of DECA events. Allison Carroll is Mount Horeb's advisor.

CHURCH NOTES

- Good News Lutheran Church - WELS**
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608-437-4646 visit
GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions
- New Hope Evangelical Free Church**
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Immanuel Lutheran Church**
www.immanuelmh.org
Sunday 10:00 service
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
- Springdale Lutheran Church**
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeple.org
- St. Michael The Archangel Parish**
Rev. Robert Butz- Parish Administrator
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday thru Friday - 8:00 am
Sat. 5:00 pm
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am
- Vermont Lutheran Church-ELCA**
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church**
2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10:00 am
- Perry Lutheran Church ELCA**
1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org
- Mt Horeb Evangelical Lutheran**
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www.elcmthoreb.org
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Mount Horeb Public Library throws a mocktail party!



Kevin Gibbons (above), co-owner of Hodge Podge Madison, brought smiles to Mt. Horeb Library patrons' faces during a hands-on Mocktails class Tuesday, February 27. Participants enjoyed creating hand-crafted alcohol-free beverages and learning the tricks and techniques to take them up a notch. Pictured at left, Mimi Phan-Dinh and Charlotte-Ann Chenery give it a try. Photos contributed.

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Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- March 15, 1894

M. Webber, while emptying milk at the creamery, his colts got frightened and ran away and threw Webber out and dislocated his shoulder.
The creamery at Pine Bluff was sold at auction yesterday for \$2,200.

Iver Kleven has been appointed postmaster at Klevenville, the present incumbent, George Wenson, having resigned.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Webber, a 10-lb. boy. All are well and Henry is as tickled as if he fell heir to a million dollars.

Mrs. Martha Olson of Moscow, who lost her husband, house and contents in a cyclone last May, has received a total amount of \$360.35 from kind neighbors.

The auction of J. C. Ward on Monday was largely attended, the articles sold brought fair prices, especially cows which fetched from \$25 to \$49.50.

120 Years Ago- March 17, 1904

John Edseth is now located on the Martin Lewis farm in Sand Rock Valley and can be communicated with by wire.

The German Valley School closed last Friday. Miss Mary Riley was teacher. Scholars who did not miss a day of school during the term, were Laura Bilsie and Lydia Kahl. Katie Bilsie obtained her diploma at the age of 14 years.

The windmill over the village well is up and whirling faithfully.

Laura Gesme is now installed as saleslady at Dahle Bros. store. The board of the Erbe School were kind enough to grant her release from the contract, which had not been completed, the spring term remaining to be taught.

The angel of death called away from this life Miss Julia Bakken Wednesday of last week, after a long period of sickness lasting about a year, which a few months ago turned from inflammatory rheumatism to consumption. She was 19 years and 2 months of age when death released her of the pains and troubles of this life. The church was neatly decorated. The flowers were beautiful and the grave was nicely lined and trimmed.
I will sell my team of horses 9 years old,

weighing about 1450 lbs. each. Harness and buggy also if buyer wishes. Address me at Mt. Horeb, Wis. or call me up by phone. Henry Finke.

You don't need to spoil clothes or rub them on the washboard, as Galvanic Soap will accomplish the work while you sleep. Just leave the clothes in the suds to soak.

A Gentleman lost a very fine fur mitt between Mt. Horeb and the Barber factory. It was made in a foreign land and valued very highly by the owner, who's willing to give a suitable reward for the mitt delivered at this office, where the mate may be seen for comparison.

110 Years Ago- March 12, 1914

A snake was seen at Mount Horeb last week. We thought the cause of such sights had been removed from this beautiful and prosperous village several years ago.

A pretty wedding was celebrated at the Lutheran Church last Thursday when Sarah Matson of this place, and Donald L. Cass of Madison were united in bonds of holy matrimony. The church was filled with spectators. The Rev. Otto Mostrom, in white gown, pronounced the sacred words that shall unite the two for life. The bride has grown up to womanhood in our midst and is a lady of many good traits of character and is respected by all. The man who won her hand in marriage is a stranger to us but we believe the good judgment of the lady would choose only one who is worthy of her companionship through life.

The high tension wires got crossed up with the long distance Bell wires last Saturday and raised Harry with the service for a while.

Ted Ayen has hired out to A.A. Holum for a year to assist him in the dray business. The work is now too arduous for one man to handle.

Carl Sanders and Thore Spaanem went back to Madison Monday to serve as jurors in Circuit Court.

100 Years Ago- March 18, 1924

We have been asked, what is the bonded indebtedness of the school district? We have not obtained the exact figures just have been told it is about \$60,000.00.

A new type of fashion magazine "Fashions for the Home Dressmaker" is being distributed by Hoff's this week. Home sewing is rapidly increasing. This is probably due to the simplicity of present styles as well as to

the variety and economy which is possible to the woman who makes her own clothes.

Persons owning and living in their own homes are entitled to \$500 exemption on this property from taxation.

Melvin Mickelson had the misfortune to run a pitchfork into his leg, which is causing him quite a bit of pain.

90 Years Ago- March 15, 1934

A new Mount Horeb cheese factory commenced operation Monday by manufacturing round Swiss cheese.

The Lake Drive Dairy, operated by Luhman & Tvedt, has been sold to C.P. Brechler, who takes possession April 1. Roy Tvedt, who has been associated with the dairy together with Fred Luhman, will manage the dairy temporarily.

Mrs. Ole Moen, 59, died at the home of her son, Sever, at Argyle last Saturday.

A young Dodgeville couple was married here Sunday by Justice L.M. Kittleson. Names of the contracting couple was not given for publication.

Ole Tollefson, 73, died at a Madison hospital Monday, March 12.

80 Years Ago- March 13, 1944

Tenney Midthun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Midthun, has been wounded in action in Italy Feb. 20, according to word received by his parents from the War Department.

Commencing Sunday, March 26, the postal rates will be increased under the new tax law recently passed by Congress. Local letters require 3¢ instead of 2¢; air mail in the U.S. and Alaska will be 8¢ instead of 6¢; besides money orders will be increased; and fees on insured mail and C.O.D. mail have been doubled.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Bakken and family have moved into the Hans Edseth estate residence on South Fourth Street, which they purchased.

Dr. Marriott T. Morrison has rented the Anton Ruste estate residence and will take possession June 1.

60 Years Ago- March 19, 1964

A daughter, Lori Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Ranum, Route 3, Mount Horeb at Methodist Hospital, Madison, Wednesday, March 11.

S.A. Sylvester, president of the State Bank of Mt. Horeb, is in Madison General Hospital where he is recovering from injuries in a

fall last week. He slipped on icy pavement while walking to work.

George H.J. Stauffer, Mount Horeb, was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree by the University of Wisconsin.

50 Years Ago- March 14, 1974

The Mount Horeb school board members approved the purchase of new high school band uniforms. Cost is \$15,556.50 for the 110 uniforms, a director's uniform, a drum major uniform and four twirlers' uniforms.

Among those named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse are: Terri R. Herman, Robert Kleppe and Debora L. Piquette.

Alice Sutter has received the Lions Club award for service to others.

Steven Basthemer has accepted a teaching position at the junior high school in West Allis.

40 Years Ago- March 8, 1984

The Mount Horeb village board heard board member Neal Fargo explain the most recent cost overruns at the municipal building. The total hidden cost of the Municipal remodeling project presently amounts to about \$10,500. The contingency fund allows for \$17,000 in unpredictable overruns.

Lena Urfer, Mount Horeb, died on Friday, March 2, 1984, at a Madison hospital at the age of 77 years.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Herbert J. Grover has notified the Barneveld Public Library that it will receive \$7500 to help build a new public library. Library Board president Barbara Arneson expects the new library to be the "center of activity in the village and a source of pride for all Barneveld residents."

20 Years Ago- March 11, 2004

Mary Quant, an eighth-grade student at the Mount Horeb Middle School, won the CESA 2 Regional Spelling Bee and will now move on to compete at the State Spelling Bee.

The marriage of Naomi Maija Cann and Charles Edward Johnson took place on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004 in the Assembly Hall of the State Capitol. Ruth Irene Dahlen Skindrud, 99, of Mount Horeb died Thursday, March 4, 2004 at Skaalen Sunset Home, Stoughton.

Your Right to Know: Record delays are contrary to law

By **Bill Lueders**
Your Right to Know

In early April of 2023, I requested some records from the Madison Police Department regarding what it said was the sole disciplinary action taken against an MPD officer or employee in the first three months of this year.

It was an exceedingly minor matter — a sergeant who got a one-day suspension for sending an “unprofessional email to command staff.” And all I wanted was to see the complaint that would disclose what the email said and some document that explained how the matter was concluded. Just a few

sheets of paper.

The response I received said the request had to go through the MPD's records custodian, Julie Laundrie, who informed me: “I am currently at 14 months for personnel requests to receive [a] reply.”

Fourteen months? Laundrie's official explanation is that she

puts requests for personnel records into a queue with other, often voluminous requests, which are handled in order. (The office now says it may just be a few more weeks.) But the real reason for the delay is that the department, like too many other public agencies in Wisconsin, does not devote enough resources to

handling records requests.

It's a problem that has grown markedly worse in recent years, as agencies have gotten bolder in exploiting the lack of specificity in the state's open records law regarding the question of “How long is too long?”

The Madison Metropolitan School

District, for instance, has been sued at least five times since 2021 for long delays in responding to records requests, while a staff position for records work went unfilled. Like some other records custodians, the district seems to think “We're busy doing other things” is an acceptable **continued on page 20**

TAXES

continued from page 1

construction. That change significantly slowed levy increases for a decade, but in the past two years they have risen somewhat more rapidly. The 3.7 percent increase in December 2023 property tax bills (for use in 2024 municipal budgets) was lower than the previous year but is also the second highest of any year since

2011. When broken down by municipal population, the increases in December 2022 bills were higher than those in December 2023 in almost all categories. Still, as was largely the case last year, municipalities of all sizes increased levies by 3 percent to 5 percent. Madison, for example, raised its property tax levy by 4.7 percent on December tax bills to \$286.5 million. That increase is the second-highest

of the 10 largest cities, behind only Eau Claire (5.4 percent). The city of Milwaukee — which will also see a large influx of new revenue from a 2 percent sales tax that went into effect on January 1 — raised its levy by a more modest 2.2 percent, from \$311.0 million on bills mailed in December 2022 to \$317.7 million on bills issued this past December. This increase is the second-lowest of any of the

10 largest cities in the state, above only Janesville (2.0 percent).

Last summer, Governor Tony Evers signed into law 2023 Wisconsin Act 12, which substantially increased appropriations for the state's shared revenue program. For the past decades, shared revenue, which includes components such as County and Municipal Aid (CMA) and Utility Aid, had stalled and even

decreased in some years.

For many municipalities around Wisconsin, the Act 12 funding will have a significant impact on their budgets starting in 2024. Across all communities with under 1,000 residents, the combined 81.3 percent increase in county and municipal aid and 4.9 percent rise in property taxes will raise the total amount from these two largest sources of municipal revenue by 20.3 percent,

according to the Wisconsin Policy forum's report. The state's largest municipalities — those with populations above 20,000 — will also benefit, but not by nearly as much. Their CMA totals will rise by 19.0 percent, and taken together with a 3.7 percent increase in property taxes, they will have an additional 6.4 percent in revenue on average from these two sources compared to what they received last year.





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Ken Beyer is closing Ken’s Birdhouses & Feeders and gets ready to downsize several aspects of his life. He can be reached at 608-469-5792. Photos by Matt Geiger.

BEYER

continued from page 1

our house anymore,” he explains. “Plus, I’ve been having some vision problems. It’s time to stop. It’s time to retire for the last time.”

He estimates he has about 500 houses and feeders to sell now that he’s closing his doors.

The son of a carpenter, Beyer began his most recent career when he was looking at a pile of scrap wood in a garage (accessible on Front Street) behind his 315

Main Street home. By last year, he was making nearly 3,000 of them annually. They can be big or small, simple or ornate, but each one is crafted by hand in that small workshop. There are houses for wrens, bluebirds, chickadees, orioles, wood ducks, woodpeckers, kestrels, martin’s and much, much more. The housing supply isn’t only ornithological, either, with houses crafted for bats and bees, as well as feeders for squirrels, too. When working, he often researches different types of

animals, trying to understand their needs and their behaviors and make feeders and homes that suit them. He sometimes preserves the wood using shou sugi ban, the ancient Japanese art of weatherproofing wood with the careful application of fire. “I do it mostly because I like burning things,” he jests. He will miss his time

in the shop, but it’s time for the next phase of his life. “Mostly I enjoyed the customers,” he says. “People coming in and telling their stories about their birds. The look in their eye when they found the perfect house for them.”

After making so many thousands of homes for various animals, Beyer feels it’s

time for him to find a new home, too. He’s not exactly sure where he’ll land, but it probably won’t be too far away.

“I’ll still be around,” he laughs. “I’ll still meet up with the old boys for coffee, so we can solve all the problems in the world.”

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DANE COUNTY
REGIONAL AIRPORT
— MADISON



Father and son found guilty of murdering woman with carbon monoxide

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has announced that Aric L. Way, 52, of Glendale, Wis., was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release on supervision for the murder of his mother in Dodgeville, Wis. on July 19, 2021.

“This sentence reflects the gravity of the horrible crime committed in this case,” said Attorney General Josh Kaul. “I’m thankful to those who ensured that the defendant will face the consequences.”

On July 19, 2021, the victim was found deceased in her Dodgeville home. An autopsy determined carbon monoxide poisoning to be a contributing factor to the cause of death. The victim had recently agreed to sell the family farm, which Mr. Way’s son and co-defendant, Philip G. Schmidt-Way, was set to inherit upon the victim’s death. The evidence at trial showed that there were no obvious sources to explain elevated levels of carbon monoxide in the home,



Paul Schluter and Elizabeth Mary in their future studio (above) and with their son, Elliott. Photos by Matt Geiger.

STUDIO

continued from page 1

Vig, known for his work with Nirvana, Green Day, the Foo Fighters and plenty more. By 19, Schluter and his band, Last Crack, had signed a deal with Roadrunner Records, releasing two subsequent albums. Last Crack embarked on American and European tours, found airtime on MTV, and gave the young musician a crash course in the world of professional rock. Schluter ended up recording at Prince’s legendary Paisley Park Recording Studio, as well as working with the likes of Dave Jerden (who produced Janes Addiction, Alice and Chains and the Red Hot Chili Peppers) and Brian Malouf (who produced Michael Jackson,

Queen and Madonna).

It was only natural that Schluter would eventually become a producer himself. Following a tour with Last Crack, he got a job at Sleepless Nights Studios in Madison in 1996. After working there for a decade, Schluter and bandmate Darren Soderholm took over the space, and in 2007, Megatone was born.

In a career of pivotal moments, none compared to the moment in 2018 when a country singer and songwriter walked through the studio’s doors.

Elizabeth Mary grew up on a dairy farm in the Dubuque, Iowa area. By the age of 10, she was writing her own songs. When she grew up, she played with a variety of cover bands at an array of festivals. After 14 years also working a “day

job,” she quit and decided to pursue her musical dreams fulltime. She chose Megatone to record her debut album, “Meet me in Madison,” and the rest is history.

“I came in with an acoustic guitar and some songs and he just completely immersed himself in the process,” she recalls. “A producer is like a coach, and he was a really great coach.”

One evening, as he walked her to her car, the two shared their first kiss. He ended up proposing to her in the same spot, and the moment was even memorialized in one of her songs.

“We do call that album our first child,” she explains. Pretty soon, the couple’s first human child was born, too.

Mary has since won a Best of Madison Award for 2023 Gold Singer-Song-

writer, received radio-play on Q106 Madison Country and steadily built a following. She performs more than 170 shows annually.

“He plays guitar for me, so it’s a conflict of interest,” she jokes of her producer and bandmate and husband. “No, but we’re in a good place.”

Playing together, the couple has opened for an array of famous artists including Lorrie Morgan, Clint Black, Lonestar, Air Supply, Jordan Davis and many more.

The two married last year, and that big decision was followed by another: to move their studio to Mount Horeb, where they saw a “For Rent” sign in the window at the recently-closed Christmas Shop. They pounced on the opportunity, excited to work in a small town that has charmed



them in innumerable ways already.

“We love being here,” he says. “We’re still discovering Mount Horeb. We love it.”

They will bring in acts from around the region to record, but they also hope to engage with the local artistic community. They want to send their customers to nearby restaurants and bars, and two doors down to buy guitar strings at the local music store. The studio will be created to their exact specifications, giving them the ability to record an eclectic blend of styles and genres.

While some producers are known for being heavy-handed, Schluter says he is “the other kid of producer,” the type who helps each artist achieve their own vision. “I help color it in,” he says.

They want the space to churn out professional music, but also provide a comfortable place for all those who enter their doors.

“It’s important to create a really cool space, because recording is a whole thing,” Mary says. “People get so excited to record.”

“It’s all still fresh to her, and so she reminds me of that,” Schluter adds. “She reminds me how cool it is that we get to do this.”

There will be a lounge, with a fridge and couches and video games to play. The recording and producing spaces will be upgrades to their current facility, allowing Schluter to do what he does best.

“I come home just gushing,” he says with a smile, “because I love what I do.”

They hope to open this spring.

BOARD

continued from page 1

The full-service consulting firm conducted the study between August 2023 and March 2024 to help inform the Village’s assessment of current and future parking demand to accommodate existing development and future growth.

Downtown parking availability was determined through four parking occupancy audits conducted by MSA in August 2023 through November 2023. The counts for these audits started in the western edge

of downtown and proceeded eastward. They each took roughly 45 minutes to complete and were made during the morning, midday, afternoon and evening. To take into account various parking demand days, audits were taken on a peak summer tourism day, a typical day, a Village event day, and the weekend.

“It’s generally understood that you’re pulling from the whole community, if not regionally to those events, and people are more willing to park a little further away to go to events,” the MSA representative said. “While

there is some concern for residents that live nearby, I think you want to base your parking standards and strategy on a typical day.”

According to MSA, the greatest demand for parking came from this field survey on a Village event day evening, specifically the Village Farmers Market and Witches Night Out events. Village Trustee Tim White said that visitor transport services such as a shuttle service could be a viable option as crowds continue to flock to Village events.

“We’ve been to events where they actually have a shuttle service, which if you had a parking lot further out, that would be an option too,” White said.

Through the survey, MSA found that the parking network on the studied event day was 58 percent filled, with 389 parking spaces available. The consultants said they determined that as the density of downtown increases, the effective supply would be reduced by new development. In their report, MSA said this increasing density presents a concern as businesses and property owners have vocalized the need for parking to remain accessible to visitors and residents alike. The consulting firm said they are evaluating parking restrictions, signage, and overall efficiency to improve the current conditions and maintain parking access.

According to Village Administrator Nic Owen, the primary takeaway from the study is that there is sufficient parking available per national standards, but depending on how the downtown is redeveloped, there may be a need to add additional public parking as well as consideration given to alternate means of transport around town.

“There is parking, but maybe we just need better ways to educate on it and signage,” Owen said. “Parks and Rec was looking at enhancing biking and Sustainability is looking at enhancing it, so it’s really a good time to co-op on some of that initiative.”

The Village Board next meets March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in a joint meeting with the Plan Commission and Historic Preservation Commission.

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SPORTS

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STOUGHTON 64, MOUNT HOREB 62



Vikings' comeback falls short

Stoughton tops Mount Horeb in thrilling sectional semifinal

by **DAN LARSON**
Sports Reporter

OREGON — Five teams in the state end their seasons in jubilation.

All the others are left feeling the way Mount Horeb did following last Thursday's WIAA Division 2 boys basketball sectional semifinal at Oregon High School.

But boy, oh boy did Mount Horeb come close to authoring a comeback for the ages, a March Madness kind of finish if ever there was one.

Trailing by nine with 46.7 seconds to go, the second-seeded Vikings surged back and had the ball and a chance to tie in the final seconds.

But unfortunately for Mount Horeb, senior guard Nick Vorwald's wide-open

3-point attempt from the right wing came up just short and top-seeded Stoughton escaped with a 64-62 victory. Three-time defending state champion Pewaukee then toppled Stoughton, 62-49, last Saturday to advance to state.

"Down nine, obviously you want to try to get it close," said Mount Horeb sophomore star Josh Manchester, who led all scorers with 34 points. "But realistically you're like, 'Alright, it's probably over. But then Zach (Maguire) made some big plays — humongous plays — and we had an opportunity to tie it."

"We want Nick shooting that shot 10 out of 10 times and he makes it nine out of 10, so you've got to live with it."

Vorwald and Maguire continued on page 16



Nick Vorwald (top) and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team were downtrodden after falling to Stoughton in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal last Thursday. Above, Mount Horeb's Josh Manchester (3) had 34 points in the loss. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Mount Horeb duo named all-league

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team had two players earn postseason honors.

Junior guard Morgan Monroe and senior guard Rowan Johnson both earned honorable-mention all-Badger Small Conference honors for a Vikings team that went 8-18.

Monroe averaged 10.5 points per game for the season, but 13.4 points in strictly conference games, which were both team highs. She also averaged a team-leading 8.8 rebounds per game in all con-tests and 8.6 rebounds in conference games.

Monroe played in 22 of 26 games due to an ankle injury, but was limited in a few others as she recovered from injury.

“Her stats would have been even better if she was not injured because she was limited when she returned and saw her scoring and rebounding drop,” Mount Horeb coach Bart

Leibfried said. “Her and I have had conversations that if we want to take that next step, our best players have to be our hardest workers. I have no doubt she will be in the weight room and gym this off-season and will be one of the leading players in the Badger Conference next year.”

Johnson, who was also an honorable-mention all-conference player last year, battled injuries and illness this year but still played in 25 games. Johnson led the Vikings with 36 3-pointers and also averaged 6.9 points per game.

“She led us in fouls, and that was OK because she is a tough hard-nosed player that brought that toughness to our whole program in practice and games,” Leibfried said of Johnson. “She along with all the seniors will be missed, but can be proud of the foundation they have laid. One of her goals was to make everyone feel they belonged within the program and she accomplished that the last two seasons.”



Rowan Johnson (top) and Morgan Monroe (above) were both named honorable-mention all-Badger Small Conference. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

All-Badger Small Conference Girls Basketball

First Team

Name	School	Yr.
Caitlyn Frank	Baraboo	12
Anna Miller	Edgewood	9
Erin Schauer	Edgewood	11
Teagan Mallegni	McFarland	12
Ava Dean	McFarland	12
Brynn Kirch	McFarland	12
Hailey Testolin	McFarland	12
Sydney Cherney	Reedsburg	12
Erelyn Apel	Sauk Prairie	12
Ella Hamacher	Stoughton	11

CO-PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Teagan Mallegni, McFarland & Sydney Cherney, Reedsburg
COACH OF THE YEAR: Sara Mallegni, McFarland

Honorable Mention

Edgewood: Taya Fernandez, Beanie Thompson, Maren Schmotzer, Zhana Gnewich
McFarland: Elise Freeman
Mount Horeb: Morgan Monroe, Rowan Johnson
Portage: Hannah Kallungi
Reedsburg: Addison Meister
Sauk Prairie: Mallory Hartwig, Alexis Atkinson, Ava Brings
Stoughton: Elizabeth Stokes, Gretchen Tangeman

NOTICE TO ALL MOUNT HOREB WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS

The Mount Horeb Water Utility will begin its Spring Hydrant Flushing beginning April 1st through April 26th. Should your water become discolored, let your tap run for approximately 5 to 10 minutes and it should clear up. Try to do your laundry in the evening hours if possible. Please be sure to keep your garbage/recycling carts off the street. Carts should be placed on the terrace or at the end of your driveway. If a nearby hydrant is being flushed, your carts could be washed away from the large amount of water flow. The water utility thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

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Josh Hyndman, Water Superintendent

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BOYS BB

continued from page 14

scrapped with a Stoughton defender for the ball along the wing before Vorwald ultimately corralled it with a wide open look at the basket. But his game-tying attempt with 6 seconds left was off the mark and Ty Fernholz made 1-of-2 free throws at the other end to ice the game, making it 64-60.

Vorwald, the Vikings' second-leading scorer this season (15.0 points per game) made a lay-up with 1.0 seconds remaining, but there was no time left for Mount Horeb (21-6) to extend the game.

Still, what a comeback it was.

Vorwald's traditional 3-point play with 1 minute, 24 seconds left pulled Mount Horeb within 60-54. But Stoughton's (24-3) Ben Harman made three of four throws over two possessions as the lead grew back to 63-54.

Maguire, though, made a 3-pointer from the right wing with 37 seconds left to breathe life into Mount Horeb's comeback hopes. After Stoughton's Sawyer Schipper missed two free throws, Maguire struck again, this time knocking down a triple from the top of the key with 27 seconds remaining to make it 63-60.

Fernholz, who leads Stoughton in scoring at 20.1, had a chance to kill the comeback. Like Schipper, though, he went 0-for-2 at the line and Mount Horeb remained alive.

But fate didn't favor Mount Horeb — ranked

eighth in D2 in the final WisSports.net coaches poll of the season and winners of 10 straight entering sectionals — and the comeback came up agonizingly short.

Still, Mount Horeb held its collective head high having gone down swinging.

"I think we knew we were going to make a comeback, and so to execute that in this big-time situation is big for us," said Vorwald, who finished with 13 points, all in the second half. "I think it kind of summed up what we did this season and how good we were as a team this season. I'm just proud of our team for how we fought back."

Despite not scoring in the final 2 minutes, Manchester had as much to do with Mount Horeb's comeback as anyone.

In fact, his second half heroics kept Stoughton from ever really pulling away.

Stoughton, the fourth-ranked team in D2, led 31-22 at halftime and never really stalled after the break.

But Manchester, who had 13 points before the break, poured in 21 in the second half, including a 3-pointer from 26 feet away as well as several contested jumpers.

He was doing his best to will Mount Horeb to victory.

"Yep, for sure. And he's done that all year long," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said of Manchester. "When do you take it over? When do you give it up? For a player of his caliber, that's a struggle because he knows he can make tough shots."

And it's a struggle for me, too, because as a coach, most of the time you're telling kids, 'No, no no, what are you doing?' He can make hands-in-your-face fadeaways, and he's earned the right to do that."

As hot as Manchester got, though, Mount Horeb could never trim Stoughton's lead to a single possession.

The closest Mount Horeb got prior to the final seconds was within four, on four separate occasions. The first time was when it

was 44-40 with 8:52 to go on a 3-pointer by Manchester — his shot fake sent the defender flying past him and then he calmly canned the triple — and the second was when it was 49-45 after another 3-ball by Manchester.

Manchester made two free throws to make it 51-47, then he made it a contested 15-foot jumper with 4:26 left to make it 53-49.

But Jacob Hibner, who had 15 points, made a 3-pointer on the ensuing possession to push Stoughton's advantage to 56-49. And Harman scored inside with 2:30 left — capping off a possession that saw Stoughton run 45 seconds off the clock — to make it 58-49.

Manchester's final points came with 2:10 left on a basket that made it 58-51.

Schipper, who finished with 20 points, answered with a drive to the basket, but after Mount Horeb came up empty, Stoughton missed an opportunity to extend its lead by missing the front of a one-and-one.

Vorwald's and-one then kept Mount Horeb's hopes alive.

And in fact almost all of Vorwald's points in the second half came at the rim, with the outlier being a spinning, fadeaway jumper along the left baseline early in the half.

"We needed him to get a few post touches because that's really his strength," Manchester said. "He's going to get a good shot that we know he can make nine out of 10 times, and he got going there for a little bit."

Mount Horeb landed the first blows in the game, those being 3-pointers by Manchester and Maguire in the opening minutes for a 6-1 lead.

But Stoughton punched back and eventually unloaded a flurry that changed the scope of the game — that being a trio of 3s by Schipper, Hibner and Fernholz — in the span of 46 seconds that stretched a 12-8 lead to 21-8 with 6:56 left in the half.

"That was a big part of the game. They got some separation," Nesheim said.



Zach Maguire had 15 points in Mount Horeb's loss to Stoughton in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal on March 7. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

"Possessions matter and you've got to make them count, and in that stretch we didn't make them count."

Mount Horeb did stop the bleeding, though, and trimmed that 13-point deficit down to nine at halftime.

At that point, Nesheim's message was simple.

"We told our kids we'll fight back," he said. "That's the way this series has gone the last two years."

And Mount Horeb did, at times needing to remain patient and poised in order to do so.

"They always had that step on us, so our resilience to stay there and stay in the game was important," Vorwald said.

It just wasn't to be. But it was a special season for Mount Horeb nonetheless.

A year ago the Vikings were 16-10 and lost to Stoughton in the regional finals. This year, they won the program's first regional title since 2019.

That's what Vorwald, who two weeks ago committed to NCAA Division III UW-Platteville and is one of five seniors Mount Horeb waves goodbye to, is most pleased with about the 2023-24 campaign.

"We thought we were good, but we knew we had more gas left in the tank," Vorwald said. "Going 21-6

is a fabulous season — it's one of the best seasons in school history — so I think our jump and our improvement from last season is what I'm most proud of."

Solving Stoughton was one thing Mount Horeb couldn't do this winter, though, going 0-3 overall and losing by a combined nine points in the three contests.

So now Mount Horeb, which despite the loss of the five seniors — Vorwald, Colton Martin, Lan-don Ellstad, Will Ryan and Austin Leibfried — returns a talented team around Manchester, will try and take the next step in 2024-25.

Mount Horeb is hoping that Thursday's loss stings enough to be a spark for the returnees.

"We just talked about it," Nesheim said. "There is no question that our expectations will be to be the winner of this game next year. That's the progression that you take."

"Our state tournament team (in 2015), the year before they were 25-0 going into that sectional final and lost. And that drove those kids the next year."

"When we got back to that game, we weren't going to lose it. I'm sure Stoughton had a little bit of that in their heart and gut (tonight). You can't have that without

being there the previous year, I don't think. We'll talk about that constantly. It's gotta drive some guys."

For right now, though, the sentiment remains about this season and about honoring the seniors who will not be around next winter.

"A guy like Colton Martin, who didn't play hardly all year long, will be one of the hardest guys to replace because of what he brings to a practice," Nesheim said. "We're going to need to find guys to replace all those guys."

"These kids have been a great group of kids to coach. The seniors have been phenomenal. Great leadership."

STOUGHTON 64, MOUNT HOREB 62
MoHo 22 40 — 62
Stoughton 31 33 — 64

MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftn-fta pts) Josh Manchester 13 4-4 34, Nick Vorwald 6 1-1 13, Zach Maguire 5 0-0 15. Totals: 24 5-5 62.

STOUGHTON — Sawyer Schipper 7 2-4 20, Jacob Hibner 5 2-4 15, Ty Fernholz 5 1-4 12, Carter Sullivan 2 2-6 6, LeShawn Brown 2 0-0 4, Ben Harman 2 3-5 7. Totals: 23 10-23 64.

3-pointers: Mount Horeb 9 (Josh Manchester 4, Zach Maguire 5), Stoughton 8 (Sawyer Schipper 4, Jacob Hibner 3, Ty Fernholz 1). Total fouls: Mount Horeb 17, Stoughton 10. Fouled out: None.

TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, beginning at 7:30pm to review the proposed changes to the Primrose Land Use Plan. Notice of this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, on the Town website and on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

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Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Sectional sadness

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team reached the WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinals, but fell to Stoughton, 64-62, on March 7. The Vikings finished the season with a 21-6 record.

Clockwise from top:

- Mount Horeb’s students were fired up for the biggest game of the year.
- Vikings’ senior center Austin Leibfried runs down a loose ball.
- Mount Horeb head coach Todd Nesheim encourages his team.
- Senior forward Nick Vorwald had 13 points in Mount Horeb’s loss to Stoughton.



Photo submitted

Ellestad picks Platteville

Mount Horeb-Barneveld standout Landon Ellestad (middle), shown here with his parents Tara and Eric Ellestad, recently signed his letter of intent to play collegiate football at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Ellestad was a three-year, two way varsity starter for the Vikings. In 2023, Ellestad was named first-team all-Badger Small Conference at defensive back and second-team all-league as a wide receiver.

Ellestad finished the 2023 season with three interceptions, including one he brought back for a touchdown, 23 tackles, two tackles for loss and five passes defended. Ellestad also posted 42 catches for 771 yards (18.4 average) and scored eight touchdowns.

“He will be greatly missed next year on both sides of the ball,” Vikings coach Bret St. Arnauld said of Ellestad.

Ellestad earned all-conference honors three straight years at MH-B and helped the Vikings win three straight conference titles. He is also a three-sport athlete who competed in basketball and was a sectional qualifier in track in 2023.

Ellestad will be playing under head coach Ryan Munz for the Pioneers and studying Business/Finance.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGENCY: USDA-Rural Development/Rural Utilities Service
Notice of Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project Route Modification B-IA3 and Land Exchange, an Agreement for the Land Exchange, and a Land Exchange Net Benefit Analysis

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Route Modification B-IA3 and a Land Exchange, an Agreement for the Land Exchange, and a Land Exchange Net Benefit Analysis with respect to a supplemental environmental analysis for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (C-HC Project). Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued a related a Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and related FONSI for the C-HC Project on October 6, 2023.

A copy of these documents may be viewed on the RUS project website: Cardinal – Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project – Iowa & Wisconsin | Rural Development (usda.gov). This page is accessible by visiting the USDA Rural Development homepage, Rural Development (usda.gov) clicking on the “Resources” dropdown banner along the top of the page, clicking “Environmental Studies,” then “Impact Statements.” On the Impact Statements page, the C-HC Project webpage link is provided under “Dairyland Power Cooperative.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In September 2023, RUS published the Draft Supplemental EA (SEA) in connection with possible impacts related to nine proposed route modifications for the Cardinal- Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project, including one proposed land exchange action involving U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-managed land within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The Draft SEA described the project, assesses the project’s environmental impacts, and summarizes mitigation measures used to minimize the environmental effects. The SEA tiers to the Final Environmental Impact Statement that was published for the approved C-HC Project in October 2019. On January 16, 2020, the RUS, USFWS, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved various components of the C-HC Project and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the three agencies.

RUS released the SEA to obtain feedback from the public, as part of the federal environmental review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 7 CFR 1970 related to providing financial assistance to Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) for its share in the construction of a proposed 345-kV transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of

Middleton, Wisconsin (near Madison, Wisconsin). The availability of the Draft SEA for public review was announced in local newspapers on September 8, 2023. A 14-day comment period was provided for review of the SEA. Copies of the Final SEA and FONSI are available from RUS or Dairyland Power Cooperative, 3521 East Avenue, South, La Crosse, WI 54602 and in the six libraries where hard copies of all previous documents for public comment for the C-HC Project have been available.

- Dodgeville Public Library, 139 S. Iowa St., Dodgeville, WI
- Dubuque County Library, Asbury Branch, 5290 Grand Meadow Drive, Asbury, IA
- Eckstein Memorial Library, 1034 E. Dewey St., Cassville, WI
- Guttenberg Public Library, 603 S 2nd St., Guttenberg, IA
- Middleton Public Library, 7425 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI
- Schreiner Memorial Library, 113 W. Elm St., Lancaster, WI

Based on its SEA, RUS and USFWS have concluded that the nine proposed route modifications for the C- HC Project and the proposed land exchange would not result in significant changed circumstances or new significant impacts to geology and soils; vegetation, including wetlands; wildlife; historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; federally listed threatened and endangered species, candidate species, or federally designated critical habitat; water resources and quality; 100-year floodplains; air quality and climate change; noise; land use; transportation; visual resources; or human health and safety beyond what was evaluated in the FEIS. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

In accordance with the NEPA, as amended (42 U.S. Code 4321 et seq.), the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), and RUS’s Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970), RUS and USFWS have determined that the environmental effects of the route modifications have been adequately analyzed for any potential future action that it considers and that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment would result from construction and operation on the route modifications. Any final action by RUS and USFWS related to the route modifications will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal and state environmental laws and regulations. Because RUS and FWS’s potential action relating to this new information and changed circumstance is not expected to result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for the route modifications.

Dated: February 23, 2024.

Publish: 3/7/24, 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 27, 2024

The Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from Rick North for a zoning change from R-2 Two-family Residential to R-3 Multi-family Residential, further described and located at: 0606-123-7633-9 109 Valley Dr. 0606-123-7622-2 113 Valley Dr. 0606-123-7611-5 302 Adams St.

The Village Board, by its Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission, will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 3/7/24, 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 27, 2024

The Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from MMI, LLC for a zoning change from PD-1 Planned Development with underlying Planned Business zoning to a modified Planned development - General Development Plan for a proposed 3-story mixed-use building including commercial space and a 24-unit multi-family dwelling project to be located at 1881 Springdale Street, further described as parcel 0607-073-0429-1.

The Village Board, by its Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission, will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 3/7/24, 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 27, 2024

The Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application from Brad Crowley of 1848 Construction, Inc to allow an exception to the Mount Horeb Zoning code 17.14(4)(b)4.c. related to the design requirements for buildings within the Springdale Street corridor being located at or within 30 feet of all abutting street rights-of-way for a proposed dental building at 1920 Commerce Drive, Lot 151 North Cape Commons, parcel 0607-074-3511-1.

Be it further notified that the Village Board, by its Plan Commission/Historic Preservation Commission, will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 3/7/24, 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**



TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for March will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Monday, March 18th, 2024, beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF SPRINGDALE REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Springdale, 2379 Town Hall Rd., Mt. Horeb WI, is seeking bids for chip sealing, hot mix wedging and culvert replacement on various roads in 2024. For project specifications and deadlines, contact Town Patrolman, Devin Dahlk, at (608) 437-6230, option 6. All bids must be received no later than 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 19 when they will be opened by the Board at the Springdale town hall. Include proof of insurance and mark the exterior of the envelope with type of work being bid. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to award bids to the lowest responsible bidder (Wis. Stat. 60.47(1)(b)).

Posted: 3/1 - Town Hall and springdalewi.gov

Jackie Arthur
Administrator/Clerk

Publish: 3/7/24, 3/14/24 **WNAXLP**

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS:
NOON THURSDAY
the week prior to publication.
For rates and deadline information for multiple paper insertion, please call (608) 767-3655 or email: classifieds@fingerpub.com

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Rate: \$13.00 for up to 10 words, additional words are 30¢ each. Ads must be paid in advance by credit card by calling 608-767-3655; or at our central office in Black Earth – Finger Publishing, Inc., 1126 Mills St., Black Earth

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- **Patient Benefit Specialist** – 1.0 FTE day shift position
- **RN Informatics Specialist** – .6 FTE day shift position
- **RN Skilled Nursing Care** – .6 FTE p.m. shift position. **\$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!**
- **RN Float** – .75 FTE p.m./night shift position. **3,750 Employment Bonus eligible!**
- **RN Med/Surg Unit** – .75 FTE evening/night shift position. **\$3,750 Employment Bonus! eligible!**
- **RN OB Department** – .6 FTE day/evening shift. **\$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!**
- **RN ED Department** – .6 FTE premium pay weekender position! **\$3,000 Employment bonus eligible!**
- **MRI Technologist** – .5 to a 1.0 FTE day shift position. **Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!**
- **Imaging Technologist** – day or night shift position in the hospital & day shift in the clinics available. **Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!**
- **Respiratory Therapist** – part-time day or night position & a .6 FTE weekender position
- **Certified Nursing Assistants** – part-time positions available in our Nursing & Rehab Center day, evening and night shifts available, **\$3,000 Employment Bonus included!**
- **Environmental Services** – part-time evening and night shift positions. **\$1,000 Employment Bonus!**
- **Grant Writing Coordinator** – half time position

To find out more detailed information about all open positions and to apply, go to our website at: www.uplandhillshealth.org.

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The House on the Rock Resort, Spring Green, Wisconsin, has a Resort Operations Manager position available. This position ensures that Team Members are meeting guest needs and appropriately responding to any guest concerns. Hires, schedules and coordinates (hands-on) housekeeping/laundry, building maintenance and front desk departments. Coordinates activities with other revenue centers to ensure that services are provided in an efficient and timely manner. Ensures financial goals are met by managing labor costs, controlling expenses and maximizing room revenue. Ensures compliance with company policies and with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Prefer 2 to 3 years of hotel experience and knowledge of property management software and computer proficiency. Knowledge of housekeeping department helpful. Strong attention to detail and excellent organizational skills. Ability to work effectively in fast-paced setting. Able to handle pressure with poise. Positive attitude.

Please send cover letter including salary history resume to The House on the Rock, Attention HR Director, 5754 Hwy 23, Spring Green, WI 53588. Or email to: information@thehouseontherock.com. 608.935.3639 x 1201.



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT SEASONAL PARK MAINTENANCE POSITIONS (2)

SEASONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE (TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE):

These seasonal, summer positions are 40 hours per week, approximately May through August, Monday through Friday with occasional weekend overtime. Duties involve parks maintenance, mowing, trimming, ball diamond maintenance, park shelter cleaning, brush chipping, etc.

Starting pay is \$15.00/hour.

Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and be responsible and able to work with limited supervision. Previous experience with mowing equipment, tractors, trucks, trailers and power equipment is desired. Preferred start date of mid to late May.

For more information, contact Jeff Gorman at 437-3351 or jeff.gorman@mounthorebwi.info. Applications are available on the Village website at www.mounthorebwi.info or at the Municipal Building, 138 E. Main Street.

Applications are due at noon, Friday March 29.

EOE



BLUE MOUND STATE PARK IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR SEVERAL POSITIONS, INCLUDING POSITIONS ON THE MILITARY RIDGE AND BADGER STATE TRAILS. POSITIONS INCLUDE VISITOR SERVICE, LABORER AND PARK & RECREATION SPECIALIST.

ALL POSITIONS START AT \$15.00/HR.

Laborer & Park & Recreation Specialist require two years of driving experience. If you enjoy working outdoors, are self-motivated with good communication skills, we have several fun summer positions available.

Apply at **WISC.JOBS**
Keyword **"Blue Mound"**
Deadline is **March 28th**

Countryside News



By JERRY DAVIS
Countryside News

The common muskrat is most active at dusk, dawn, and night but may be seen at all times, in all seasons. It's equipped to swim, hav-

ing somewhat webbed hind feet and uses a rat-type tail as a rudder to steer. These mammals can back pedal. Its mouth closes behind its protruding incisors, affording the ability to chew

underwater. Muskrats can remain underwater for as long as 15 minutes, coming above for a few seconds and going underwater for another stint. Bank dens are constructed to the displea-

sure of some landowners who call for rodent removal or invite furbearer trappers. They are valuable for their durable, waterproof fur and their flesh, called marsh rabbit.

RECORDS

continued from page 9

reason for not providing records in a timely fashion. It isn't.

The state's open records law, enacted in 1981, directs all state and local government officials to respond to records requests "as soon as practicable and without delay," but sets no precise time frames. The state's attorney general's office, which has statutory authority to interpret and enforce this law, has long advised that "a reasonable time" for responding to most simple requests is ten working days, although actually providing the records may take longer.

Gov. Scott Walker passed executive orders in 2016 and 2017 that set tighter response times for state agencies — requiring them, for instance, to fulfill and not just respond to "small and straightforward" requests within 10 business days when possible. But those rules did not apply to local governments and are no longer considered binding past Walker's term.

The AG's Office of Open Government, under both Democratic and Republican leadership, has not taken a hard line against records custodians for taking too

long. And indeed, a report by the *Wisconsin Examiner* found that the office itself had more than three dozen records requests that remained unfulfilled after more than a year. The office met its own 10-day guideline for just 46% of the 924 records requests it received in 2022.

This is not okay. A vital but often overlooked part of the open records law says providing records in response to requests "is declared to be an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employees whose responsibility it is to provide such information."

If an agency lacks staff to handle the volume of requests it receives, it should allocate more staff, as happened recently with the city attorney's office in Green Bay, which had fallen behind in handling requests.

Responding promptly to record requests is not just a good government best practice. It's the law. And sooner or later, the courts are going to have to enforce it.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Bill Lueders is the Council's president.

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